



Vienna Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

The Vienna Press

A Disciple-Making Church

October 2006 (Vol. 47, No. 10)

As I See It



Photo: Kim Jackson

by Pastor Pete James

Some things in life come only to those who persevere. Dr. Seuss's first book was rejected by 23 consecutive publishers until the 24th publisher agreed to print this remarkable children's story. The result was six million copies sold.

Colonel Saunders was rejected 112 times as he pitched his fried chicken recipe until he found a buyer for his first Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise.

Michael Blake's screenplays were ignored for 25 years until his story "Dances with Wolves" hit the big time.

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Deadline for November issue:

Oct. 10

Adult Education Fall Class Offerings

by George Marling

VP's Adult Education Program has expanded this fall to include a rich selection of topics of particular interest to the Christian on the road to discipleship. Dedicated leaders draw the class participants into a rewarding study-and-discussion experience to meet a wide range of needs. Offerings include:

Sunday Morning	Time/ Room	Description	Contact Person(s)
Friendship Chimes	9 am 109	Handbell choir for special-needs adults	Myra Goodrich, Coordinator
Friendship Class	9:30 am 109	Current sermon series discussion for special-needs adults	Emelie Parker, Beth Gourley, Coordinators
Beyond Basics	9:30 am 203	Through Oct. 22: Phillip Yancey's <i>Reaching for the Invisible God</i> . Leader: Cap Oliver Oct. 29–Dec. 3: Study of Christian Doctrine. Leader: Alexandra MacCracken	Kate Lund, Coordinator
Partners with Christ	9:30 am 205	"With No Apologies—Does Christianity Really Add Up?" Video series with short segments featuring a leading Christian apologist. Topics: Truth and the Bible; Jesus; Other Faiths; Creation; Suffering	Martha Strauss, Leader
Searchers in the Word	9:30 am 211 Conf. Rm.	Paul's Letter to the Philippians: This brief letter, though written from prison, is so filled with joy that it is often called "The Epistle of Joy."	Sharon Sigler, Coordinator
Lightseekers	9:30 am parlor	A deeper look into the sermon scripture text for the morning	Carla Schnell, Coordinator
Lightseekers	9:30 am Great Hall west wing	A deeper look into the sermon scripture text for the morning	Carla Schnell, Coordinator
PITS (Parents of Infants and Toddlers)	9:30 am 311	Meeting for inspiration from the scriptures and discussion of the needs of very young children	Lori Bryant, Coordinator

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As I See It

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Raising children takes perseverance. Going to college takes perseverance. Doing your job day-in and day-out takes perseverance. Following Jesus Christ takes perseverance.

Friedrich Nietzsche, a well-known atheist of the 19th century, said, "Life is a long obedience in the same direction." We can rephrase his words in a Christian direction. Following Jesus Christ is a long obedience in the same direction.

Perseverance is a Christian virtue. The Christian life is not a simple 1-2-3, connect-the-dots existence. Faith requires struggle and a certain stick-to-it-ness.

I preached recently about the virtue of persistent prayer. Jesus told parables about the value of praying and never giving up (Matthew 18).

In Aesop's fable about the tortoise and the hare, the fox supplies the moral of the story: "Slow and steady wins the race."

Life is more like a marathon than a sprint, so what we need most is endurance, not speed. The author of Hebrews implores us to "Run with endurance the race that is set before us" (12.1).

If you are active in the church, you will need perseverance. Hang around the church for any length of time and something will undoubtedly occur that will upset you. What we need in the church is unquenchable faith and indomitable perseverance. Some things come only to those who persevere.

Fall Adult Ed Classes (continued from front page)

Sunday Morning	Time/ Room	Description	Contact Person(s)
ESOL Study I	10:45 am 317	A study of I Corinthians for students from the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) weekday classes who have mastered enough English to discuss and learn from the scriptures	Brett & Dee Fallavollita, Tom Zigoris, Coordinators
ESOL Study II	10:45 am 321	A study of the Gospel of John for students from the ESOL weekday classes who are building English skills	Laurel Tarpley, Wilson Melek, Coordinators
Berean	11 am 203	Oct.–May '07: Letter to the Romans	Duane & Esther Harder, Leaders
Lightseekers II	11 am 211 Conf. Rm.	<i>Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines</i> , edited by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin	Connie Edens, Coordinator

Women's Weekday Classes	Time/ Room	Description	Contact Person(s)
Monday Bible Study	10-11:30 am 203	The Old Testament Books of Exodus and Joshua	Lisa Baltzer, Coordinator
Discovery Bible Study (Thursdays)	9 am-noon L1	The New Testament book of Revelation	Pastor Junior McGarrahan, Leader
Home Bible Study for Women (Fridays)	9:30-11 am	<i>Becoming a Woman of Purpose</i> by Cynthia Heald. Coffee, prayer and Bible study hosted by Donna Hall (call 703.255.9744 for directions)	Donna Hall, Leader

The weekday Bible studies are open to all women and, as with other classes, may be attended at any point during the year on a regular or drop-in basis. Also, some of the weekday classes at VPC may offer childcare; call the church for verification.

To contact any coordinator or leader on the front page or listed above, please consult your VPC Directory or phone the church office at 703.938.9050.

Bookstore—Classes Partnership

Whether or not you are considering participation in an Adult Education class at VPC, there is a wealth of resources at Grapevine Books to enhance your Christian walk.

Now, CenterPoint adult education center and Grapevine Books ministries are partnering to provide convenient ways to register for classes, purchase recommended texts and provide information about opportunities for learning and growing in faith.

Term I of CenterPoint begins on Oct. 1. Stop in before then for a list of recommended books for each class; every book listed is 10% off through November.



October at VPC

SERMON SERIES:

- Oct. 1 **Live Faithfully**
- Oct. 8 **Live Faithfully: Human Sexuality (1)**
- Oct. 15 **Live Faithfully: Human Sexuality (2)**
- Oct. 22 **Live Faithfully: Human Sexuality (3)**
- Oct. 29 **Live Faithfully: Human Sexuality (4)**

ALL-CHURCH EVENTS:

- **VPC Membership Informational Coffee:** Oct. 1
- **Work in Progress Concert for CROP Walk:** Oct. 7 (See p.6)
- **40-Year Ruby Anniversary Celebration:** Oct. 8 (See p.6)
- **New Member Seminar:** Oct. 8, 15 & 22
- **Grapevine Books "InSights" Group:** Oct. 13
- **"A Day for Haiti" & Golf Tournament:** Oct. 14 (See p.5)
- **Congregational Meeting:** Oct. 15
- **VPC Book Discussion Group:** Oct. 18
- **Women's Retreat:** Oct. 20-22

Photo: Kim Jackson



Keeping Up With the Changes

by Dick Eagan, Executive Director

We continue to be blessed by new volunteer and paid staff who have stepped up to serve God through VPC.

Last year was about infrastructure with new buildings and processes. This year is about people and the ministry and missions commitment we, as a church community, are feeling called.

Our next step is to continue to strengthen ourselves internally while we keep our focus externally. Our disciple-making mission is to prepare and send people to love and serve God in our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces. Our commitment as a church community is to aggressively care for one another within the community so as to strengthen our ability to serve others outside our VPC community. It's an inside/out process.

To that end, the Pastoral Nominating Committee, chaired by Jill Roberts, is hard at work

identifying and interviewing pastoral candidates to fill our vacant Associate Pastor position, with the primary responsibility for Equipping.

This pastoral role will work primarily with Adult Ministries to support the large number of educational and activity programs throughout the life of the church.

Also, the Community Evangelism Search Committee, chaired by Ian Wright, is continuing its interviews and remains prayerful that we will see clearly the outreach focus that will lead all of us as more passionate "bold witnesses." Please keep praying for God to lift up and identify to us the right persons to fill these important ministry leadership roles.

The Deacon Board and Congregational Care ministry are implementing a complete redesign of our congregational care initiatives. Led by a new Deacons Leadership Team and clearer care ministries teams, a re-emphasis on calling the VPC disciples into care for one another will begin this fall.

Interim Associate Beth Goss is offering her pastoral support and experience to help the reorganization and ongoing care efforts.

We are pleased to welcome to our staff Stan Ott as a part-time teaching pastor resource. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for us to affiliate an individual who can help develop our leadership and ministry management abilities, again strengthening us internally so we can better serve externally. Stan is leaving his Senior Pastor role at Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh after 18 years and moving to the D.C. area to grow his Vital Churches Institute leadership training and consulting business. Stan led our VPC Leadership Forum last fall to rave reviews and a wonderfully impactful training experience.

Again, I personally thank everyone who has stepped up to serve God through this church. We appreciate your prayers and support identifying the right SHAPE'd folks to fill the growing number of ministry and missions service roles throughout our VPC community. Blessings!



Stewardship, Finances and the Budget

by Tom Zigoris

Our VPC fall programs have begun: Classes, small groups and the activities for all ages are back in full swing. For most ministries, staff and committees of the church, planning occurred during the summer. For the VPC budget cycle, we are currently in the last quarter of the Unified Operating Budget for 2006 and planning for the new Unified Operating Budget for 2007.

The 2007 Budget process started in spring '06. The Budget Working Group presented an Asking Budget to the Trustees and Session late in the summer, then finalized the Asking Budget with approvals from the Trustees and Session in September. During this month, there will be budget information made available to the congregation.

This Asking Budget is an appeal for the VPC missions and ministry for 2007. On Oct. 22, the congregation will meet to vote on the 2007 ASKING budget for next year. In early November your church leaders will send out a commitment letter and pledge cards, and in mid-November we will conduct our Pledge Commitment Sunday. This will be the time to commit the giving of time, talent and financial



“**F**or where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. -Matthew 6:21”

giving. So it is up to us, as the congregation, to communicate our pledge commitments in November and December so that a ministry and missions plan and budget can be finalized for '07. In January, the final 2007 Unified Operating Budget will be voted on by the Session and congregation.

We give financially as a commitment to our Saviour's work left to be done. We give as a way of returning what really belongs to God. As a disciple-making church, to CALL people to faith, to EQUIP people in discipleship, and to SEND people to love and serve costs money. Did you know that VPC's

Unified Operating Budget for calendar year 2006 is a little over \$3 million dollars? With 53 Sundays in 2006, our weekly budget is a little more than \$58,000. Our ministry programs have increased. We are reaching out more, and more people are responding. Especially in the areas of ESOL (English classes) and children's ministries, we are realizing explosive growth.

When you see the Sign-Up table Sunday mornings for Disciple Bible classes, for the Women's Fall Retreat, for the Men's and Women's Great Banquet and for the CenterPoint classes and forums, all of these are ways we can get involved, and all of these have found a place in our VPC budget.

We recognize that the Lord has made us stewards of our TIME, our TALENTS and the RESOURCES he has loaned us. Now we can prayerfully evaluate and commit to what God wants us to return to HIS church. We are committing to God's service budget.

Please prayerfully consider what and how you will commit to God's service through VPC in the form of TIME, TALENTS, and FINANCIAL GIVING for next year so that you are ready for November.



Helping CCH (Community Coalition for Haiti)

Excerpted from articles by Karen Carr & Knox Singleton

For two years, CCH and VPC have been co-developing programs to significantly improve food, education, shelter and healthcare opportunities for the poorest of Haiti's population.

These programs are making an impact. For example:

- Over 100 pregnant goats have been given to Haitian families to build small businesses that, in turn, enable families to afford school tuition and food for hungry children.
- In partnership with members of the local community, CCH is establishing environmentally-responsible farming co-ops, school-based community gardens, agricultural education for high school students and adults, and possible export of products like dried mangoes and Noni fruit.
- Operating losses in the Comite Bienfaisance de Pignon Hospital are being stabilized through CCH's provision of funds for medicine and patients' meals, doctors' and nurses' salaries, training of future hospital staff, and equipment replacement/repair.

Construction has also begun on the new VPC Vocational School, which operates under two principles, innate to both organizations: First, everything we do is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we articulate that faith as the motivation for our mission and service. Second,



our goal is to develop the capabilities of local Haitians to take care of their own needs rather than simply non-Haitians providing services and support to the Haitian people. To that end, CCH is working to establish vocational training in marketable skills such as animal husbandry, sewing/tailoring, small business and mechanics/maintenance. Says Knox Singleton, CCH President and VPC member, "We're investing in people, which will last for eternity."

Still, the Haitians' needs are unfortunately greater than we are able to fully meet. Won't you consider participating in "A Day for Haiti" at VPC by attending the concert or golf tournament—or both? (See box at right)

Members of VPC and other area churches are also planning a mission trip to Pignon, Haiti on Nov. 1–7 for medical work, community outreach, agriculture projects and work on the VPC Vocational School. "Everyone who goes to Pignon will be able to contribute in significant ways and will be used powerfully by God," says Dr. Daniel Hebert, VPC member and orthopedic surgeon, who traveled to Pignon last spring.

Christ's message of "feed my sheep" rings clear in our desire to see Haiti reached with the gospel as the poor are enabled to use resources available to them and no longer struggle to survive but instead can thrive in Christ. Thank you, VPC, for your vision to bring hope to Haiti!

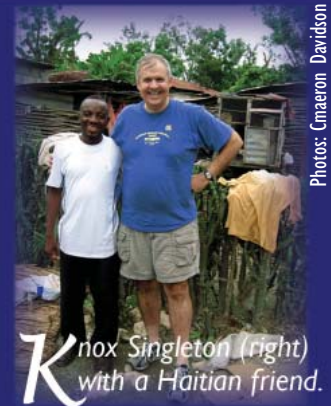
UPCOMING EVENTS HOSTED BY VPC FOR CCH

- **Oct. 14:** "A Day for Haiti" 7 am—VPC 10th Annual Golf Tournament at Reston National Golf Club

7:30 pm—Benefit Concert for Haiti at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. Featuring cardiologist and noted composer/vocalist, Cleve Francis, accompanied by the VPC and First Baptist Church choirs. Directed by Ethel Bothuel of First Baptist.

- **Nov. 1-7:** Mission Trip to Pignon, Haiti

For registration, tickets or more information, visit the Sign-Up Table, log on to www.viennapres.org/haiti, or call Karen Carr at 703.880.4160



Photos: Cmaeron Davidson



A teaching plot at the VPC Vocational School.

Please pray for this ministry, which VPC supports, and also visit www.cchaiti.org for more information.



News Briefs

VPC Honors 40-Year Members

by Marilee Davies

Every few years, it has been a tradition to honor our members who have been affiliated with VPC for 40 or more years. This month, VPC will celebrate over 70 individuals who have reached or exceeded this Ruby Anniversary. Please join us in recognizing them on Oct. 8 at each worship service. In addition, a special time of getting together and conversation will be held at the 9 am and 10:30 am coffee hours in the Great Hall.

Linda Dulin Speakers' Fund

by Lisa Baltzer

All year, women at VPC have been donating to the Linda Dulin Speakers' Fund (LDSF), and now the Fund has been put to use. The Committee is pleased to announce that it has paid the entire fee for Kristin Huffman to speak at the Women's Retreat on Oct. 20-22.

The LDSF honors the memory of Linda Dulin, whose life touched so many here at VPC. Linda's passion was planning events for women of VPC. She sought dynamic, challenging speakers—committed Christians able to influence others to come to faith or take next steps in faith.

What Linda did for us can now be done through the Fund that bears her name. A basket will be available at the Retreat for donations to replenish the LDSF and help bring another fine speaker to a future women's event!

CROP Walk

The CROP Walk is coming! Last year, VPC friends and families helped raised over \$22,000, of which 25% went to the local community ministry, the Committee for Helping Others (CHO). Other proceeds went to Church World Service, an organization of 36 denominations—including Presbyterian Church (USA)—in 80 countries worldwide.

How can you help?

- Recruit friends and neighbors to walk, sponsor you, or assist with organizing the event. Look for a specially-marked clipboard at the Sign-Up Table in the narthex, or call Susan Kenney at 703.319.0830.

- Attend Work in Progress's Benefit Concert at VPC on Oct. 7 at 6:30 pm. All proceeds go to Church World Service and CHO.

- Participate in the CROP Walk on Nov. 12 at 2 pm.

Christmas Memories

by Catherine Dehoney

Men and women of VPC: In connection with the Women's Christmas program scheduled for Dec. 6, we are seeking your personal remembrances of a meaningful Christmas. These memories may be used in our program, perhaps incorporated into a storyteller's tale, or some other way of reminding all of us of special times.

Please contact Catherine Dehoney (703.938.2053) or Julia Glenn (703.281.7482).

Used Books

Grapevine Books, on the first floor across from the Great Hall, is accepting used books through Jan. 10. All donations accepted!

Photo Gallery

The VPC web site, www.viennapres.org, is a great tool for learning about different ministries. Now there is a new feature online: a photo gallery.

View snapshots of various aspects of VPC life by visiting www.viennapres.org/photogalleries/.

Pictures of additional events are welcome; please submit them on a CD to Duane Wills, c/o the church office or via his Elder/Website mailbox across from the 2nd floor Library.



Mission Work: Pro-Vision International

by Valerie Merfa, South Africa

Pro-Vision International is a Christian ministry that mentors fledgling Christian ministries in South Africa and other southern Africa nations. Ted Carr is the founder of Pro-Vision. Ted and Joy Carr have been supported by VPC since they were serving Youth for Christ. Lance Carr, their son, is the leader of Pro-Vision.

I began serving Pro-Vision International in South Africa in July 2003. In October 2003, I visited one of their projects, Khanyisile, a community-based AIDS ministry in Katlehong, a township outside Johannesburg. In 2004, I served Khanyisile throughout the year. In 2005, I served for the first part of the year and returned home for three months to care for my mom after her accident. I returned in July 2005. Khanyisile opened its Community Child Care Center in August 2005.

Since then, I have been serving at its Community Child Care Center, where there is an Early Childhood Development program for one- to seven-year-olds, an Aftercare for children and teens to attend after school, a garden and a kitchen for meals for the ECD and Aftercare children. I am doing grief counseling with those children who have lost one or both parents, using books written by Marge Heegaard. Some of the children have ill parents or family members; I provide family illness counseling with them, using books I have written. We like to sit on quilts made by Vienna Presbyterian Quilters while we read the book in English, Sotho and Zulu. Some of the children are ill themselves and may have parents who are sick or who have already passed away. They receive personal illness counseling, using a book for children with chronic illnesses by Marge

Heegaard. One child who is ill prefers grief counseling because both of his parents have passed away. The small children in ECD have the same variety of issues as the aftercare children, but they are too young for the topical counseling. They receive play counseling, using puppets, singing, identifying feelings and educational activities. All of the children are reminded in their own language that God loves them, is always with them, and they are never alone. A child care worker is an interpreter, if necessary.

In addition, the Aftercare does prevention education. The Biblical Peacemaking Program is used to teach peacemaking skills from the Bible. The Abstinence Education program is used to prevent HIV, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. All of the Aftercare children participate in the peace program monthly. They study the Bible in Sotho and English and do an activity, such as a drama, to reinforce the lesson. The abstinence program is for 10-year-olds and older. Twenty-nine children made the commitment, and they chose a theme t-shirt.

Through these prevention education programs,

many children have asked Jesus into their hearts or renewed their faith in Him. They have grown in learning the Bible and putting it into practice in their daily lives.



Photo: Brenda Burkholder/MCC

“**A**ll of the children are reminded in their own language that God loves them, is always with them, and they are never alone.”

Please pray for this ministry, which VPC supports, and also visit www.Provision-International.org for more information.



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enjoyable online.
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("Newsletter")

Pray Daily *Worship Continually* *Study Diligently* *Live Faithfully*

VPC Core Beliefs
As a disciple-making church,
we believe . . .
Jesus is Lord
Scripture is our authority
Everyone is called to discipleship

Witness Boldly

VPC Mission:
As a disciple-making church,
we will . . .
Call people to faith
Equip people in discipleship
Send people to love and serve

Give Generously

... both individually and in community

Serve Creatively



Grapevine Books is the Christian bookstore of Vienna Presbyterian Church.

We offer Bibles and biblical reference books, study guides, devotionals, Christian music CDs, cards, gift items and more. Stop in and browse, renew, reflect, give and receive.

Manager: Christin French
Location: Ministry Center, 1st Floor, opposite the Great Hall
Hours: Sun/Tu/Th 9 am-12:30 pm, Sun 4:30-7:30 pm & Mon/Wed 6-8 pm

Info: www.viennapres.org/GrapevineBooks or 703.938.9050 ext. 135

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Send articles to: newsletter@viennapres.org
or bring to the VPC Office (Ministry Center, 2nd Floor)

Vienna Presbyterian Church

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Parish Associate: Chris Hammond

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Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, 8:30 am–5:30 pm

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